



2018-2019

## Illinois Farm Bureau & Affiliates Cooperative Program

*Applications Due March 8, 2019*

### **Description of Program**

The Cooperative Activities Program is a competitive exercise that is offered only to FFA Chapters in Illinois. This program is designed to be included as an integral part of each FFA Chapter's total program of activities. The chapter Cooperative Activities Program should be developed throughout the year by individual FFA Chapters embracing the actual operation of cooperative practices within the FFA Chapter and its community. Through this program, FFA members and their advisors will learn the value of cooperatives in the American Free Enterprise System and develop an understanding of the cooperative way of doing business.

### **Benefits of the Program**

Through this program, students are given the opportunity to participate in cooperative buying, selling, and use of credit. They participate in various cooperative functions. Students learn the important role that cooperatives, as a type of business, serve in today's economy. In addition to the knowledge and experience that students gain, chapters, schools, and communities also reap the benefit of a good Cooperative Activities Program.

### **Eligibility**

All FFA Chapters in Illinois are encouraged to participate in the Cooperative Activities Program.

### **Awards**

Chapters can earn recognition on the chapter, section and state level through the Cooperative Activities Program. Chapter recognition levels include Gold, Silver, Bronze and Triple Crown. Chapters can also earn recognition as the Section Winner and Top 5 Chapter. A trip to Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. will also be awarded to Section Winners and the Top 5 Chapters.

### **Application**

All applications must be completed online at [ifb.fluidreview.com](http://ifb.fluidreview.com). The application consists of Basic Information, Form I, and Form II, and the Certification form. Each of those forms must be completed satisfactorily to be eligible for awards. On the application, the chapter will be limited to typing information within the space of the box indicated. No substitutions or other supplementary material, other than specified supplemental photographs and descriptions may be added to this application. A signed Certification Form must be included with the chapter's application.

*All submitted applications become property of the Illinois Farm Bureau.*

**The application period will close on March 8, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. and no applications may be submitted after the online application system closes.**

**Evaluation Procedure:** A subcommittee of the Youth Education Committee will evaluate each application using uniform criteria.

## Evaluation Factors and Scoring

Judges will be using several criteria when scoring applications. Spelling and grammar are factors that will be used in evaluating the entire application. The evaluation of Form I will be based on a chapter's ability to answer Yes to the questions in Section A, B, & C earning points in Section D, E, & F. The evaluation of Form II comes from your chapter cooperative meeting the basic structure of a cooperative business, meeting the 7 cooperative principles, and meeting the needs of its member/owners. The Photo section is optional, but chapters can upload up to eight (8) photos worth up to three (3) points each.

Education, Training, and Information – What education and training did the cooperative members, elected board members, manager, and employees receive so that they can contribute effectively to the development of the chapter cooperative? (30 points)

Describe the Chapter's Cooperative Business – What was the need of the chapter cooperative? What services/products did it offer its members/owners? Does the chapter cooperative meet the criteria of a cooperative business? (30 points)

Voluntary and Open Membership – Was the cooperative open to all chapter members able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, racial, social, political, or religious discrimination? (30 points)

Democratic Member Control – Was the chapter cooperative controlled in a democratic manner by the member/owners? Did the members participate in setting the policies and making decisions? Are the elected representatives (the board members) accountable to the members? Do cooperative members have equal voting rights? (30 points)

Member Economic Participation – Did the members contribute equity to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative? Did the members receive stock in return for the equity investment? Did the members use the cooperative products and services? Did the members share in the profits based on their use of the cooperative's products and services? (30 points)

Autonomy and Independence – Did the cooperative operate autonomously from the FFA Chapter? Did it have its own elected board of directors that were responsible to the member/owners of the cooperative business? (30 points)

Cooperation among Cooperatives – Did the cooperative strengthen itself and increase its efficiencies by working with other cooperatives? (30 points)

Concern for Community – Did the chapter cooperative work to improve and enhance the local community through policies approved by the member/owners? What impact did the cooperative's actions have on the community? (30 points)

## Award Requirements/Levels

**Gold, Silver, and Bronze Recognition:** Chapters must successfully complete Form I (Yes to 7 out of the 10 questions in Section A, answer Yes to 4 of the 6 questions in Section B, answer Yes to 5 of the 7 questions in Section C, and earn at least 1 point in each of Section D, E and Section F.) and accumulate 25% of the point total for Form II. Certificates signifying the Gold, Silver, and Bronze status will be presented to the chapters. The Gold, Silver, and Bronze point values will be determined by the judging committee.

**Section & Top 5 Recognition:** Chapters must meet the requirements for the "Gold, Silver, and Bronze" recognition above, and accumulate at least 50% of the overall point total from Form II. Awards will be presented to each Section and Top 5 Chapters at the Illinois FFA Convention. This level of recognition will be used to determine Section Alternates and Substitutes for the tour, and Triple Crown Winners.

**Triple Crown Recognition:** Chapters recognized as a Section Winner for three consecutive years (starting in 2008) will receive "Triple Crown" recognition. A special plaque will be presented to each of these Chapters at the Illinois FFA Convention.

**Award Tour:** The opportunity to attend the award bus tour to Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. will be awarded to Section Winners and the Top 5 Chapters. The award bus tour will be conducted June 23 – June 28, 2019.

**Selection of Tour Participants:**

It is the responsibility of the FFA Chapter and/or Agricultural Instructor to select the FFA members who will best represent the chapter on the award tour. Consideration should be given to selecting the most deserving FFA members from the chapter. The tour participant would probably be one of the following: A deserving and hardworking member, chairman, or a member of the Cooperative Activities Program Committee in the chapter or a chapter officer. Also, participants need to be aware that they will be sleeping on the tour bus on the travel back to Illinois, and will be doing a great deal of walking. In addition, if the student the chapter selects is unable to go, the chapter is encouraged to name a replacement student to take their spot on the tour. However, replacement students must be of the same gender. NOTICE: If a chapter fails to submit the name(s) of their tour participant by the deadline indicated, the chapter will forfeit the trip. Any person who participates in the award tour is expected to report back to their chapter the next year about the tour. Participants cannot attend the bus tour more than once.

**Award Tour Participants:**

Participants, eligible for the awards tour, will include one member per section winning chapter plus one additional member may be allowed from the top five winning chapters in the state. One advisor and spouse from both the first and second place chapters will be invited to participate.

**Section Alternates:**

Section Alternate Chapters will be selected to fill vacancies created when a section does not have a winning chapter. Alternates will be the second place chapter in the section that meets the Section and Top 5 recognition qualifications, and will fill any vacancy created if the winning chapter does not provide a tour participant by the deadline.

**Substitutes:**

Substitutes will fill a vacancy if a section does not have an eligible winning chapter that meets the Section and Top 5 recognition qualifications. The substitute chapters will be selected from the top scoring chapters in the state that would not already be participating in the award tour.

**Chaperones:**

Chaperones for the tour will consist of members of the Youth Education Committee and one chapter advisor and spouse from the first and second place chapters. If the first or second place advisors are unable to attend, the third place chapter advisor and spouse will then be invited, etc. Chaperones will have the responsibility of maintaining order, leading teams, and other duties as assigned by the tour staff.

**Special Note:** *Points can be deducted from the chapter's section/state total score if they do not comply with the rules governing the application and the program.*

If you have any questions about the program, please contact:

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